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REVIEWS

Balch, Emily G. *Our Slavic Fellow Citizens.* Pp. xx, 536. Price, \$2.50.
New York: Charities Publication Committee, 1910.

For many years the author has been studying the Slavs in their home country as well as in America. Much of the material in this volume was published in "Charities and the Commons," four years ago. Hitherto little has been done to introduce the Slavs to Americans save by Dr. E. A. Steiner. Speaking various unknown tongues, coming only yesterday, settling in colonies, they have remained almost unknown. There was an excellent opportunity for such a study and it is a poor compliment to our appreciation of social questions that for several years the publishers looked askance at the manuscript on the ground that the public cared nothing about the Slavs and would not buy.

The work is excellently done. The first part describes the Slavic immigration at its source and gives an account of the home life and conditions of the various groups. Here, too, attention is called to the marked influence America is having on European conditions through the returning emigrants. In the second part the history of the Slav immigration is treated and their economic and social life in America is described. At the end of the book are some fifty pages of appendices of data together with a bibliography and index.

The volume contains many good illustrations. Altogether it is one of the most sympathetic and interesting studies of the immigrant the reviewer knows, and it is heartily commended to all who wish to know more of the stranger within the gates.

CARL KELSEY.

University of Pennsylvania.

Eastman, Crystal. *Work Accidents and the Law.* Pp. xvi, 345. Price, \$1.50. New York: Charities Publication Committee, 1910.

Investigations in various social fields are continually emphasizing the need of more specific data bearing on social conditions. No recent investigation has done more to emphasize this need than that conducted by Miss Eastman into the causes and results of industrial accidents in Allegheny County (Pittsburg).

Taking the accidents of one year, Miss Eastman has prepared a careful summary, first, of their causes, and secondly, of their economic cost. Neither the employee nor the employer can be blamed for all the accidents. Defective machinery or the absence of safety appliances may often be responsible for some of the accident cost, but on the other hand, the reckless handling of even the most carefully constructed machines results disastrously to the worker.

The real value of Miss Eastman's study appears in her analysis of the social cost of work accidents. Her statements regarding the income loss are

most instructive, showing conclusively that the employer does not in any way bear the loss of industrial accidents, but that the loss is borne first, by the worker in loss of wages, second, by the home in the loss of its economic support, and third, by the community in that it is forced to maintain the injured workingmen or their families. To this statement of the problem of work accidents, as it appears in the abstract, the author has appended an excellent summary of the employer's liability, with a discussion of the law and the possibilities of liability legislation. Few more effective studies of social problems have appeared in recent years than the accident study which Miss Eastman has made and presented so effectively.

SCOTT NEARING.

University of Pennsylvania.

Gregory, H. E., Keller, A. G., and Bishop, A. L. *Physical and Commercial Geography*. Pp. viii, 469. Price, \$3.00. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1910.

The authors have adopted a three-fold division of the subject: Part I, The Natural Environment; Part II, The Relation of Man to Natural Conditions; and Part III, Geography of Trade. The triple authorship corresponds to these three parts. In the book as a whole there is much to commend, while in individual respects there are many defects.

Part I, The Natural Environment, sets forth in 120 pages, the salient features of physical geography—such as, ocean, coast line and harbors, topographic forms, soil, waters of the land, atmosphere and climate. The limitations of space render it impossible for this part to stand in any way as an adequate substitute for the usual text on physical geography. It is simply an introductory section to the two which follow. In any circumstance, however, it is difficult to see the reason for giving to sand dunes half as much space as is accorded to plateaus. It is also somewhat surprising to find valleys considered as a topographic form; to find a discussion of the growing season and types of rainfall in the United States under topography instead of under the atmosphere and climate; while one is led to question sharply restriction of the term *alluvial plain* to cover only *alluvial fans* and *cones*.

Part II, which covers about the same amount of space, is devoted to two main topics: (1) Human adaptation and the effect of environmental influences; and (2) the development of trade, under the headings, agents of trade, trade routes, historical sketches and trade manipulation. This part is the best portion of the book. In many respects it is a real contribution to the field of geographic texts, since it unites in clear, concise form many of the most fundamental principles of human geography. The only real criticism which can be raised against Part II is the fact that however important the question of trade manipulation may be to the understanding of *commerce*, it is, as discussed here, hardly to be considered as geography.

Part III is the unfortunate part of the book, for in spite of being accorded approximately one-half the total space, it falls distinctly below